

Case 3298

Curculio assimilis Paykull, 1792 (currently *Ceutorhynchus assimilis*; Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* (Paykull, 1792) for the species commonly known as the 'cabbage seed weevil' (family CURCULIONIDAE), a major pest of oilseed rape. The name *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* is threatened by three senior primary homonyms *Curculio assimilis* Fabricius, 1775, *C. assimilis* Harrer, 1784 and *C. assimilis* Herbst, 1784.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CURCULIONIDAE; *Ceutorhynchus assimilis*; cabbage seed weevil; oilseed rape pests.

1. The name *Curculio assimilis* was established by Paykull, 1792 (p. 69) for a species of seed weevil and has been in continuous use for a major pest of oilseed rape (e.g. Reitter, 1916; Balachowsky, 1963; Edwards & Heath, 1964; Schmidt, 1970; Hill, 1987, 1994; Seymour, 1989; Alford, 1999, 2003; Lane & Gladders, 2000; Alford, Nilsson & Ulber, 2003; Williams, 2003). The name is preoccupied by three senior primary homonyms: *C. assimilis* Fabricius, 1775 (p. 134) (currently *Lasiorhynchus barbicornis* (Fabricius, 1775)), *C. assimilis* Harrer, 1784 (p. 184) (currently *Cionus thapsi* (Fabricius, 1792)) and *C. assimilis* Herbst, 1784 (p. 77) (currently *Magdalisa violacea* Linnaeus, 1758), all in the family CURCULIONIDAE (see WTAXA Electronic Catalogue of Weevil Names (Curculionoidea)). None of the senior homonyms has been used in the genus *Ceutorhynchus* since 1899.

2. The name *Curculio obstrictus* Marsham, 1802 (p. 255) was used only once since 1899 (as *Ceutorhynchus obstrictus*) by Colonnelli (1993), for the cabbage seed weevil, a species for which the name *C. assimilis* is in prevailing use (see Alford, 2003). Colonnelli (1993) applied the name *C. assimilis* to a species commonly known as the turnip gall weevil and for which the name *Curculio pleurostigma* Marsham, 1802 (p. 282) is in prevailing use (see Balachowsky, 1963; Alford, 2003). Usage of the name *C. assimilis* by Colonnelli (1993) was also invalid since it is a preoccupied name. Therefore, in the interest of stability and particularly because of the economic importance of the taxa involved, it is proposed that the Commission use its plenary power to rule that the specific name of *Curculio assimilis* Paykull, 1792 (currently *Ceutorhynchus assimilis*) is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym.

3. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:
(1) to use its plenary power to rule that the name *assimilis* Paykull, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio assimilis*, is not invalid by reason of being

- a junior primary homonym of *assimilis* Fabricius, 1775, *assimilis* Harrer, 1784, and *assimilis* Herbst in Fuessli, 1784, as published in the binomen *Curculio assimilis*;
- (2) to place the name *assimilis* Paykull, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio assimilis*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

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- WTaxa** Electronic Catalogue of Weevil Names. 30 August 2005. Database version 9. <http://wtaxa.csic.es/>. WTAXA: World Electronic Catalogue of Curculionoidea

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).